**How to be Unlady Like**

by Maeve Terry

Chomp your gum like you have something to say

because you do.

Unleash your opinions on your peers.

You know what you’re talking about.

Wear a dress and sit how you want.

Your body is your body.

Cuss like a pirate,

because Grace O’Malley is one of your idols.

Become a woman in power.

Don’t cry over the names men give you

because they’re afraid of not being masculine.

Being a man isn’t measured in that.

Learn how to use a power saw.

Or not.

Don’t wear makeup if you don’t want to,

or do, it’s your choice,

not mine, or anyone else’s.

For Christ’s sake, fart and burp!

You are a human being.

Don’t chew with your mouth open.

That has nothing to do with being unlady like,

it’s just being polite.

Remember to say thank you.

Learning and knowing how to cook

doesn’t have to be a gender specific role,

because only 21.5% of head chefs in this country

are women.

Be bossy

Being a boss is awesome.

Have a firm handshake.

That’s what my grandfather taught me.

Wear the clothes you want.

Menswear, dresses, jeans, a filthy dirty uniform.

It doesn’t matter.

It’s your choice.

When I hear

“A lady’s voice is always sweet and gentle, and never shouts in public!”

I want to scream!

How else are you supposed to catch a cab?

Being a woman, being a lady

is who you are.

Being yourself is what makes you a lady.

Not how you hold yourself in public,

not how you fit a 50’s ideal.